

**DRAFT
MINUTES
SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES COUNCIL
MAY 15, 2007
LOUDOUN COUNTY, VIRGINIA**

**PATTY GILBERTSON
CHAIR**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Joe Battle, *Consumer/Advocate*
John Gibney, *Consumer/Advocate*
Inge Tracy, *Department of Corrections*
JoAnn Burkholder, *Department of Education*
Ken Batten, *Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services*
Wallace G. "Bo" Harris, *Department of Social Services*
Delegate David E. Poisson, *House of Delegates*
Jennifer Johnson, *Virginia Association of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselors*
Charles Walsh, *Virginia Association of Community Services Board*
Freddie Simons, *Virginia Association of Community Services Boards/Prevention*
James. C. May, *Virginia Association of Community Services Boards/SA Council*
William Williams, *Virginia Association of Community Services Boards/Treatment*
Mike Fragala, *Virginia Association of Drug and Alcohol Programs*
Patty Gilbertson, *Virginia Drug Court Association*
Sheriff Ryant Washington, *Virginia Sheriffs' Association*
Senator Mark R. Herring, *Virginia State Senate*
Lisa Brown, *Virginia Tobacco Settlement Foundation*

GUEST:

Leslie Martin, *National Counseling Group*
Lynne Cramer, *Substance Abuse and Addiction Recovery Alliance*

STAFF:

Lynette Bowser, *DMHMRSAS*
Malcolm King, *DMHMRSAS*
Mellie Randall, *DMHMRSAS*
Julie Truitt, *DMHMRSAS*

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m. with introductions and a welcome from the Chair.

II. PROJECT TREAT PRESENTATION – Malcolm King, Project Coordinator

Mr. King gave the Council a presentation on the Project TREAT (Training and Resources for Effective Adolescent Treatment) project. Mr. King indicated this

infrastructure grant developed by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration (SAMHSA) was initiated in August 2005 as a three-year project. The goals are to increase Virginia's capacity to meet the complex needs of youth with a substance use or co-occurring disorder and provide services that are accessible, culturally competent, comprehensive and community-based. The grant is managed through the office of Child and Family Services within DMHMRSAS that also works closely with the Office of Substance Services at DMHMRSAS and the Mid-Atlantic Addiction Technology Transfer Center (Mid-ATTC) at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU).

Mr. King can be contacted at (804) 3671-2184 or e-mail at malcolm.king@co.dmhmrzas.virginia.gov if you have additional questions.

III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MARCH 13 MEETING MINUTES:

A motion was made by Freddie Simons, and seconded by Will Williams to approve the minutes of the March 13, 2007 meeting. The minutes were approved.

IV. OLD BUSINESS:

A. PRESENTATION BY THE COUNCIL AT THE JUDICIAL CONFERENCE IN AUGUST:

The conference will be held in Virginia Beach on August 15 at the Cavalier Hotel. The Chair will present an overview, purpose and priorities of the council. The Chair asked for other Council members to join her if possible; and Joe Battle, and John Gibney volunteered. The presentation is scheduled from 9:00 to 10:15 a.m.

B. OTHER OLD BUSINESS

- The Chair expressed thanks to Senator Herring and Delegate Poisson for their advocacy and support provided during to the Council in this past General Assembly Session. Also, thanks were expressed to members of the Council (Jim May, Will Williams, Freddie Simmons) for all their hours and work at the General Assembly. The Chair stated that the Council was able to advocate for a significant amount of funding for substance abuse services. The Council also came very close with passage of legislation on the underage prevention funding request; as well as, an amendment in the language about evaluation of substance abuse services programs. The most significant item was the inclusion of Medicaid reimbursement for substance abuse services. The General Assembly appropriated \$5.2 million in General Funds, which can generate an equal amount of federal funding. Staff will provide council members with the exact status of the regulations in terms of the comment process and the regulatory process. DMHMRSAS is continuing to have discussions with DMAS around the rates, specifically for methadone. Staff will find out more about what the exact lock in status is in the establishment of the rates and inform the Council.

- Mr. Batten stated that substance abuse received \$2.4 million for general expansion of substance abuse services; however, the initiative for prevention was not funded. Of that amount, \$1.650 million will be used for residential purchase of services throughout the system. This particular fund had not been increased in over 15 years. Also, \$600,000 has been set aside to develop three demonstration projects for recovery support services; and \$150,000 will be provided to two locations to enhance the vocational rehabilitation initiative that DMHMRSAS has with DRS.
- The Chair requested Senator Herring and Delegate Poisson provide recommendations helpful to the Council in advocating for services for substance use disorders in the next session of the General Assembly.
 - Senator Herring stated the Council was successful this year because the Senate Finance staff recognized a deficiency and brought the issue to the committee's attention. Secondly, the report comments made a good case for why funding should be increased. He suggested that the Council work as much as possible with the Governor's policy staff for this year, given a new biennium budget is being submitted. It is also important to make the case for funding to identify specific areas where SA is not being addressed to focus on. He also asked to be informed if the regulations are too restrictive so that he can begin to work on getting those changed.
 - Delegate Poisson stated that the Council should remember there would be a change in the leadership in the House Appropriations Committee next year. He advised Ms. Gilbertson to arrange a meeting with the new Committee Chair. He also stated that the earlier substance abuse becomes a part of the discussion the better. Education will be the primary issue in the budget for the upcoming session so the Council should connect programs to success in school. Delegate Poisson felt that it was beneficial spending time with Council members at his office on various issues. Council members need to identify new General Assembly members and form alliances with these individuals to let them know the Council's priorities. The Council needs to be well organized and start now. Also, stressed the Health and Resources subcommittee or Senate finance committee will meet soon to come to a consensus on budget agenda items, so the Council's interest will not compete with those of the Committees.
- Mr. Gibney made a suggestion that, in light of the comments by the Senator and Delegate, before the Council's summer meeting the Chair designate someone to go out and make contact with the new Chair of the House Appropriations Committee, new Chair of the Senate Finance Committee and Secretary Tavenner to make sure they are familiar with the Council. The Council Chair agreed with the suggestion and stated that she will begin scheduling those meetings and asked if any Council member wanted to join

her to please let her know. She will inform Council of the meeting dates when they are confirmed.

- The Chair suggested the Council should begin planning now for next year. The next meeting priorities will be targeted and the development of action plan.
- Mr. Batten informed the group that a study resolution was passed by the General Assembly to ask the Joint Legislative Review and Audit Commission (JLARK) to identify the cost effectiveness of substance abuse treatment, and the jails diversion to provide services upon re-entry. Mr. Batten encouraged the Council to invite the chief analysts for the study to the Council meeting in August.
- Dr. May recognized Mark Blackwell and Ellen Hall for their work at the General Assembly this year.
- The Chair commented on the HBO Series on addiction, which was previewed in March. The event was well attended. Jim May and Mark Blackwell were acknowledged for their role in the premier. Dr. May advised the series can be ordered from HBO for about \$30.
- The Chair updated the Council on Chief Justice Leroy Rountree Hassell, Sr's Commission on Mental Health Law Reform. The incident at Virginia Tech and the surrounding issues of mental health, outpatient commitment and other issues around mental health will likely increase the competition for funding. The Access Task Force that the Chair staffs meets again in the early part of June, and the entire Commission will meet on June 27 when they will draft recommendations to the General Assembly.
- Dr. May stated that there has been a workgroup of the Virginia Association of Community Services Board (VACSB) that has provided one round of feedback regarding the rates and draft regulations for the Medicaid initiative. He encouraged everyone on the council to look at the draft regulations in great detail. Ms. Randall stated that she would provide the Council with the most recent draft of the regulations and get some explanation about the status of the review process.

Dr. May stated that he would get the Council a bulleted list of the concerns raised by the VACSB. The Chair suggested that a small group of Council members be appointed to review the regulations and to develop concerns of the Council and set up a conference call with Catherine Hancock to go over the Council's concerns, as well as supporting the VACSB's concerns. Council members who volunteered to work on the Medicaid issues with representatives from the SA Council of the VACSB were Jennifer Johnson, Will Williams, Jim May and Charles Walsh. There will be a conference call

with the members on May 23 at 10:00 a.m. Council staff will follow up with Ms. Hancock to schedule time to meet with her.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF DRAFT WHITE PAPER:

The Chair stated the Commissioner of DMHMRSAS embarked on a transformation initiative for mental health services to transform the system of mental health care in Virginia. The Council decided to use the transformation focus to reframe the issue and to ensure that when individuals talk about a transformed behavioral healthcare system they are including the treatment of substance use disorders in that language. SA Council of the VACSB has initiated, and this Council volunteered to help with this initiative. The Chair appointed Will Williams, Chair of the VACSB SA Council, to develop the draft white paper with assistance from others. Council members reviewed a draft copy of the White Paper. One focus of the paper is that substance use disorders will have parity and will be recognized as a public health issue.

Mr. Williams felt that the next step would be for the Council members to study the document either concur with it, make changes, and finalize the document to meet the Council's objective for the year and get the document distributed.

The Chair stated that she sees the document as being the salvo for our next report to the Governor and from that, some of the items that have been highlighted as being essential to a comprehensive transformed system and should inform our priorities for the upcoming budget.

The Council decided that the workgroup should meet again and

- develop a two page executive summary of the white paper;
- do a comparison of the white paper and the DMHMRSAS transformation language and
- prevail upon the Commissioner to see how this language addresses consumers of substance use disorder treatment and prevention services, or how this language can be incorporated into the whole system transformation so that it is not so mental health oriented.
- Will Williams will work with Council staff. Also, any Council member may provide comments to the workgroup electronically.

B. OTHER NEW BUSINESS

At a previous meeting, the Council discussed conducting public hearings around the state. The Chair stated that we should target the southwestern part of the state for our first public hearing. Staff for the Council will work on setting this up and come up with a format for the hearings as well as some target issues for the hearings.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

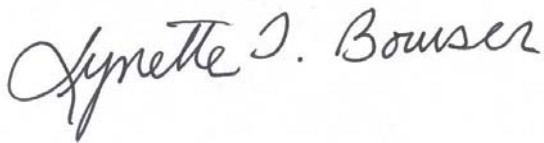
VII. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for July 30. A suggestion was made to have the meeting in Suffolk or Virginia Beach. Staff will work on a location.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

With there being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lynette J. Bowser". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Lynette Bowser